

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

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SUMMARY: CHINESE PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF ALBANIAN ARMY DAY REFLECT THE CONTINUING EVOLUTION OF PRC TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE OF "US IMPERIALISM." AS CONTRASTED WITH STATEMENTS IN A SIMILAR CONTEXT ONLY SEVEN AND EIGHT MONTHS AGO CURRENT CHINESE STATEMENTS AVOID IMPLICATIONS THAT THE US POSES EVEN A SECONDARY THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. CHINESE PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY REFLECT THE TRANSITION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN VIETNAM IN THE OFFICIALLY PROJECTED CHINESE VIEW OF THE US (REFTEL,) SPECIFICALLY THE NATURE OF THE THREAT OF "US IMPERIALISM." LAST NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER THERE WERE NUMEROUS SPEECHES AND EDITORIALS IN PEKING MARKING ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY (NOV 28) AND THE VISIT OF AN ALBANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION. AT THAT TIME THE CHINESE REITERATED THE PROPOSITION THAT "SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM" WAS "EVEN MORE DECEITFUL" AND "DANGEROUS" THAN US IMPERIALISM. THE LINE, WHILE ACCORDING THE SOVIETS THE ROLE OF PRIMARY ENEMY, STILL IMPLIED THAT THE US WAS ALSO DECEITFUL AND DANGEROUS ALTHOUGH TO A LESSER DEGREE. THE CHINESE PRONOUNCEMENTS IN THE ALBANIAN CONTEXT AT THAT TIME ALSO STRESSED THAT BOTH "SUPER POWERS" WERE CAUSING SERIOUS UNREST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. PEOPLE'S DAILY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN A NOV 28 EDITORIAL ON ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY, CHARGED THAT BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE US WERE SEEKING "EXPANSION IN EVERY WAY AND CONTENDING FOR WORLD HEGEMONY." AND YEH CHIEN-YING IN A DEC. 7 BANQUET FOR THE ALBANIAN COMRADES WARNED AGAINST THE SUPER POWERS AND THEIR AMBITIOUS DESIGNS TO DOMINATE THE WORLD."

2. IN THE LATEST SERIES OF PRONOUNCEMENTS WITH THE ALBANIANS, PEKING HAS STRIKINGLY MUTED THE SUPER POWER LINE AND DROPPED THE "EVEN MORE DECEITFUL AND DANGEROUS," PHRASE. FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL JULY 10 AND HSIAO CHING-KUANG (VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE) IN A JULY 9 SPEECH IN PEKING SAID THAT MILITANT SINO-ALBANIA FRIENDSHIP HAD BEEN "CEMENTED" AND "FOUNDED" IN THE COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST "IMPERIALISM AND MODERN REVISIONISM." AND THE EDITORIAL PROCLAIMED THAT ALBANIA HAD "SMASHED EVERY SUBVERSIVE AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITY BY IMPERIALISM AND SOCIAL IMPERIALISM." BUT NOWHERE WAS IT SUGGESTED THAT "IMPERIALISM" AS SUCH, MUCH LESS THE US SPECIFICALLY, WAS PRESENTLY POSING AN AGGRESSIVE THREAT. CONFIDENTIAL

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EVEN MORE STRIKING WAS THE SPEECH OF THE HEAD OF THE PRC MILITARY-FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION TO TIRANA, HSU HSIANG-CHIEN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF CCP MILITARY COMMISSION. IN THE EXCERPTS CARRIED BY NCNA HSU DID NOT MENTION "IMPERIALISM" OR "SOCIAL IMPERIALISM" BUT, CLEARLY REFERRING TO THE SOVIET UNION, STATED THAT "IN THE PROTRACTED STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR COMMON ENEMY WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER "

3. ON THE OTHER HAND ALBANIAN COMMENT ON THE OCCASION SAID THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA WAS "FORGED IN THE RAGING FLAMES OF THE COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM HEADED BY THE US AND MODERN REVISIONISM HEADED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ALL INTERNATIONAL REACTION." THE ALBANIANS ALSO CONTINUED TO TALK IN THE BROAD TERMS OF THE "TWO SUPER

POWERS' POLICIES OF AGGRESSION AND HEGEMONY." IN ANOTHER TYPE OF INCIDENT AVOIDED BY THE CHINESE, BEQIR BALLUKU, ALBANIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, IN A JULY 8 BANQUET SPEECH WELCOMING THE CHINESE DELEGATION PROCLAIMED THAT THE PRC HAD "ONCE AND FOR ALL BROKEN THE NUCLEAR MONOPOLY OF THE US IMPERIALISTS AND THE SOVIET SOCIALIST IMPERIALISTS."

4. THE EVOLUTION OF PRC TREATMENT OF "US IMPERIALISM" AS SEEN IN ITS PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ALBANIAN ARMY DAY IS ALSO REFLECTED IN OTHER PEKING COMMENT. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, IN STATEMENTS ON THIRD WORLD SUBJECTS, THE PRC IS EITHER SHARPLY REDUCING OR ELIMINATION ATTACKS ON "US IMPERIALISM" AND FOCUSING INSTEAD ON SOVIET SUBVERSION, MANIPULATION AND BIG-POWER HEGEMONISM. FOR EXAMPLE, IN COMMENT ON THE BLACK AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLES, FORMER CHARGES THAT "US IMPERIALISM" WAS BACKING THE COLONIALIST AND WHITE REGIMES HAVE DROPPED BY PEKING MEDIA.
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